

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims for action in this case are claims 1-14 and claims 17 and 18. Claims 15 and 16 are non-elected.

Claims 1 and 15 are amended to clarify that the cellulose ester film is a transparent film. The films of the present invention are used as protective films for optical devices (e.g. polarizing plate of claim 13 and the liquid crystal display of claim 14) and are required to be transparent for that purpose. Support for this change can be found in the discussion of the field of the invention on page 1 of the specification; the specific mention that these films are transparent with excellent physical and mechanical qualities in the first line in the discussion of the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION; reference to high light transmission for the polarizing plate protective film utility; the discussion in the last few lines on page 2 and the first paragraph on page 3; page 4, first paragraph and page 5, third paragraph, wherein the reduction in haze is discussed (see also claim 6); page 21, third paragraph, wherein transmittance degradation is minimized; and additional discussions, especially with respect to the context of the utility of the invention. As

to claims 13 and 14, it is submitted that the transparent property is inherent in the claims which specify "protective...film" for a specified device. However, to reduce issues, the clarification is included in these claims as well.

The claims are rejected over Bujard (taken alone (anticipation) or in combination with Nishino et al. (obviousness rejection)). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bujard's is directed to a different invention. Bujard refers to colored effect pigments and their use. These include colors such as yellow (Example 1), blue (Example 2), and red (Example 3). Although there is disclosure that the pigment may be applied to high molecular weight organic materials, the result is not a transparent material. The "superior optical properties" referred to by the Examiner in the rejection, are not the same optical properties required by the present invention (that is, optical properties for a protective film on an optical device such as a polarizing plate - i.e. transparency). Bujard teaches colored pigments to be used, for example, as paints (see column 2, lines 42-51). As described at page 4 of the present specification, an object of the present invention is to provide a cellulose ester film formed by casting, which minimizes

degradation of optical properties as well as exhibit sufficient mechanical strength, etc. The optical properties in the context of the present invention is the transparency of the film. A person skilled in the art would not understand that the optical properties claimed herein means non-transparent materials.

Considering the Examples in Bujard, these refer to pigmentation by deposition of certain inorganic material onto a glass plate. The glass plate is "flat glass (for example, microscope cover glass)" (see discussion in Example 1 in column 12). A yellow pigment powder having 80 nm thickness core of TiO_2 was prepared in Example 15. There is no suggestion or teaching about length or width of the powder. The powder is used as yellow paint, a teaching far from the present invention.

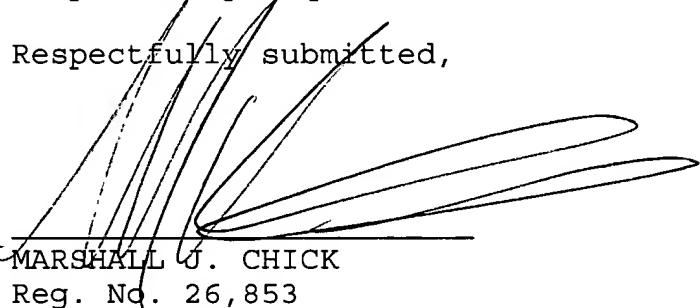
Concerning the obviousness rejection which applies Nishino et al. in view of Bujard, as noted above, Bujard is concerned with a different invention and different pigmentation processes. Claim 14 refers to a liquid crystal display wherein at least one of the protective films comprises cellulose ester film having particles meeting the aspect ratio of 2 to 7. If one were to apply the Bujard pigment to a cellulose ester film, the liquid crystal display would not be useful. Furthermore, if the Bujard

pigments were applied to the Nishino invention, the Nishino invention could not be useful. Therefore, not only is Bujard improper for rendering the present invention obvious, it is also improper for a combination with Nishino. Such a combination would be taught away from by the nature of the disclosure in Bujard as compared with the requirements of the Nishino device.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are therefore respectfully requested. With the allowance of the claims, rejoinder of withdrawn process claim 15, as amended herein, and withdrawn process claim 16 is respectfully requested.

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